

GAS EXPLOSION WRECKS A HOUSE.

Residence of Michael F. Wynn in Ruins and Another Damaged.

Workmen Cause the Accident While Searching for a Defective Gas Pipe.

William Sinnott Knocked Down and Badly Hurt by Force of the Concussion.

HOUSE NOT OCCUPIED, FORTUNATELY.

Neighborhood Aroused by the Report, Which Sounds Like a Clap of Thunder and Causes Near-by Buildings to Tremble.

No. 314 East One Hundred and Twentieth street, a three-story and basement, brown stone house, the residence of Michael F. Wynn, a contractor, was wrecked by a gas explosion yesterday afternoon. The damage amounts to about \$15,000.

William Sinnott, a laborer, employed by the Consolidated Gas Company, was cut about the head and neck by flying glass.

The Wynn family, consisting of father, mother and nine children, have been at Far Rockaway since June 1. The house has been locked up and the front doors, basement and parlor windows have been boarded up. Mr. Wynn came to the city every day to attend to his business. He is president of the New York Hoofing Company, at No. 437 East Twenty-third street.

Wynn's house is in the middle of a long row. For three weeks persons in the neighborhood have been complaining of the strong odor of gas.

Mr. A. Greenbaum, who lives next door to Wynn, at No. 316, sent a letter to the Consolidated Gas Company, saying that the odor was unbearable. Yesterday a gang of men were sent out to inspect the pipes. They worked their way up to Wynn's house, looking for the defect. The pavement in the street was dug up and the large stone flag on the sidewalk was removed. Then an excavation four feet deep was dug, and the gas pipe connection exposed.

Match Ignites Escaping Gas.

William Sinnott dropped into the excavation and lit a match to test the pipe. A flame started immediately, and ran along the pipe toward the house. The next instant there was a flash, and a loud explosion. Sinnott was thrown on his back in the excavation, and lay there unconscious. The boarding on the parlor and basement windows and front door was blown into the street. The iron bars on the basement windows were twisted and torn from their fastenings. Not a pane of glass in the house was left whole. The outside window frames on the lower floors were torn away. The street was strewn with broken glass and splintered boards.

The whole neighborhood was aroused by the explosion. It sounded like a loud clap of thunder, and to those near by it seemed like an earthquake. Mrs. Greenbaum was next door, with her sister and three children. Her house, which had some of the plaster fell from the walls and ceiling in several places. They ran from the house into the street.

The sidewalk and pavement in front of No. 314 was raised two inches, and the rear wall of the house in the basement bulged out eight inches. The rest of the wall to the roof bulges on an average of two inches, and a crack two inches wide extends from the roof to the cellar. All the furniture in the house was damaged, but in the basement it was broken into shreds. The ceiling and walls were wrecked, and furniture and pictures torn and smashed. The chandeliers throughout the house were twisted, and the electric wires off. The stairway leading from the dining room to the parlor was blown down and forced up against the basement door.

Police and Firemen Summoned.
The police and firemen were both notified, and an ambulance was summoned from Harlem Hospital. Policeman Pitschke, of the East One Hundred and Twenty-sixth street Station, pulled Sinnott out of the excavation. He was still unconscious. The falling glass had cut him about the head and neck. He was carried into an adjoining house, where he regained consciousness. He refused to go to the hospital. Acting Captain Delaney, of the East One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Street Police Station, arrived on the scene in command of the reserves. He ordered the crowd back and formed a line. Then a building inspector examined the house and pronounced it unsafe.

Patrick Kirby, of No. 111 East One Hundred and Twentieth street, assistant foreman of the gang who made the excavation, and John Casey, a laborer, of No. 200 Second avenue, were arrested. They will be arraigned in Harlem Police Court to-day.

The gas in the house had been turned off at the meter. Mr. Wynn says he will sue the Consolidated Gas Company for damages.

EXPRESS STRIKE DRAGS.

Neither the Company Nor the Strikers Inclined to Make Concessions.

The strike of the employees of the Adams Express Company has reached a crisis. While the company would be glad to make room for as many of its old employees as it could, it will not go on record as yielding to the strikers. On the other hand, the strikers who have made such a gallant fight do not want to go on record as yielding any of their demands. A committee of five of the strikers called on President William H. Day yesterday forenoon. The committee proposed that the difficulty between the company and the men be referred to a committee of arbitration, and that, pending any decision rendered by such committee, the former employees should be reinstated. President Day refused to comply with the request.

The business of the company was still running very slowly yesterday. Agent Hawthurst, of the East Forty-third street depot, admitted that a smaller volume of business than usual was being done.

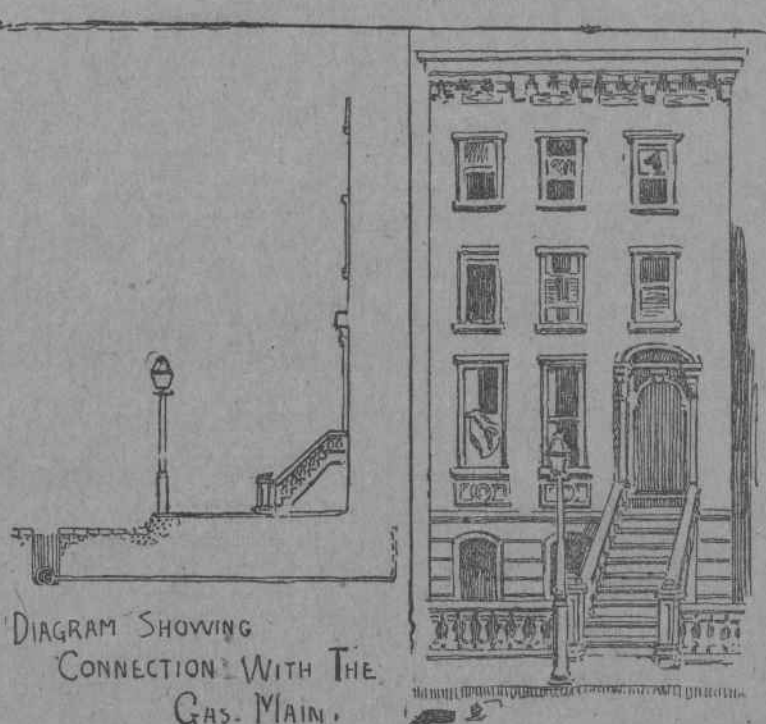
KNEE-PANTS MAKERS ALL OUT.

One Hundred Shops Are Now Closed, Yet the Strike May Soon End.

All the knee-pants makers were on strike yesterday, the employers of the ten shops, who had not struck on Sunday, quitting work early yesterday morning. One hundred shops in all are closed. The strikers gathered around Wall and Nassau streets, where there was a sort of continuous meeting all day. The girls are expected to quit work to-morrow.

Early in the day contractors came around to the headquarters of the strikers with pacific proposals, and it is expected that the strike will not last long. In the afternoon six contractors had signed the union agreement and given bonds representing \$50 each for its fulfillment.

Strong's Sound Money Club.
After a brief interview with a committee from the Wholesale Dry Goods Republican Club yesterday, Mr. Strong announced that a meeting of the club would be held at No. 850 Broadway to-morrow afternoon at 5 o'clock.



CONLIN SUSPENDS MRS. DIGUET'S CAPTOR.

Investigation Will Be Made at Once of Policeman Rosenberg's Conduct.

If the Woman's Story Be Proved His Testimony in Court Would Constitute Perjury.

HE SWORE SHE ACCOSTED HIM.

Her Husband, Arrested for Defending Her, Will Appear with Her To-day to Make Complaint—Consult General Investigator.

Chief Conlin took notice yesterday of the outrage perpetrated upon Edmond Diguët and his wife, Laura, respectable French residents of this city, by suspending Policeman Louis Rosenberg, pending investigation of the latter's conduct. The Chief of Police said that if Rosenberg had been guilty of making a false arrest he would be fittingly punished.

As fully related in the Journal yesterday, Rosenberg arrested Mrs. Diguët on Broadway Saturday evening, accusing her of accosting him, and when her husband, who had left her side for a moment in order to purchase a cigar, rejoined her, he too was arrested. Both were locked up in the West Thirtieth Street Station, where they remained until discharged Sunday morning by the Jefferson Market Magistrate, who severely reprimanded Rosenberg.

The condition of Mrs. Diguët's health caused her to suffer serious consequences from the shock of arrest and imprisonment—a statement which is corroborated by the expressions of two of her physicians, Dr. Nagel, of No. 64 West Thirty-first street, and Dr. Henry Rock Connor, of No. 237 West Thirtieth street.

Hearing Set for To-day.
Mr. Diguët called at Police Headquarters yesterday afternoon to make complaint. He was ordered to appear there again at 10 o'clock this forenoon, with his wife, to make complaint, if he wished, in the presence of Policeman Rosenberg.

Inspector Harley admitted yesterday that since Rosenberg had been the only witness against Mrs. Diguët he had no authority to arrest her, unless he himself had been accosted by her. He had no authority to arrest her on suspicion.

Mrs. Diguët's own denials, which were convincing to the Magistrate, and the evidence of her doctors as to her physical condition, call seriously in question Rosenberg's testimony given in court. He testified to a long conversation with her before arresting her. If her story and that of her doctors is true, Rosenberg is guilty of perjury.

The respectability of the Diguëts is shown in the statements of physicians and tradespeople in the neighborhood. Their apartment at No. 135 West Thirty-third street is a humble one, plainly furnished.

Extreme nervousness aggravates Mrs. Diguët's malady, and for a while yesterday she found relief in knitting. She was asked whether she would, when physically able to do so, accompany her husband to Police Headquarters and make complaint against Rosenberg.

"I cannot go to-day," said she. "You can see I am not strong enough, but to-morrow, if my husband wishes me to go, I will go."

His anger having cooled down somewhat, Mr. Diguët was almost in a state of terror of the police.

Visits the Consul-General.

"I will go to the Consul-General," he said, "and if he thinks no greater mistake can be made than to make complaint against a policeman, then we will do so."

Consul-General Braunert listened attentively to Mr. Diguët's story, and told him that Mr. Diguët's story, and told him his complaint; and that, from the general appearance of things, he would be rendered



House in Ruins from a Gas Explosion.

A gang of workmen, employed by the Consolidated Gas Company, made an excavation in front of the residence of Michael F. Wynn to locate a defective gas pipe. One of the men struck a match and held it close to the exposed pipe. In an instant a flame shot along the pipe and, igniting gas which had escaped and accumulated in the house, caused a terrific explosion. The walls of the house were forced outward and cracked, while the interior was left in ruins. The buildings adjacent were shaken to their foundations by the concussion.

ing a public service in procuring the punishment of Rosenberg.
Prior to his suspension yesterday Rosenberg appeared in Jefferson Market Court against two women, whom he charged with the same offense for which he arrested Mrs. Diguët. One of these pleaded guilty and paid her fine. The other, Mary Brooks, twenty-two years old, of No. 293 West Thirtieth street, declared she was a respectable woman; that the policeman had accosted her, and then arrested her. She was discharged.

Another woman, arrested by Policeman Conway-Dora Clark, aged twenty-two years—said that several days ago she was arrested by Rosenberg, and charged with the same offense for which he arrested Mrs. Diguët. She was charged with accosting him on the street.

Dr. Henry Rock Connor, of No. 237 West Thirtieth street, who was alone when the delegates leaving the room with broad smiles on their faces.

NO TRACE OF YEARGAN.
His Daughter Has Detectives Searching for Him—Has a Mania for Writing Checks.

The disappearance of Colonel Leonidas Hilary Yeargan, for whom his daughter, Miss Priscilla Yeargan, is searching, is still a mystery. The young lady came here from Tennessee to visit her father, and had arranged by letter to meet him at Jersey City, but after waiting at the station for six hours she decided to stop with Mrs. Edward Thomas, whose acquaintance she had made on the train. Mrs. Thomas was en route to visit her sister, Mrs. Charles P. Peterman, who resides at No. 826 Lafayette avenue, Brooklyn, where Miss Yeargan now is.

"I cannot understand what has become of father," said Miss Yeargan last night. "I wrote him a letter after I arrived, and stated that I was with my friends here in Brooklyn. Receiving no answer, I went to the post office, and found that he had called for his mail, which gave me all the more surprise, as I believe that had he been here his right mind he would immediately have come to me. My cousin, Mr. L. D. Yeargan, is out at the present moment with Detective Downing, walking the streets in the hope of running across father, but at present he has no news."

"One thing I think ought to be known is that his eyes are light and spotted with brown in the iris. He is clean shaven, and his hair is almost white. His complexion is ruddy, and his bearing is very proud. He has a broad chin, and weighs about 170 pounds."

Father has written several notes and letters of late, but the writing shows that he was either very nervous or else mentally unstrung. One letter in particular, written to the Metropolitan Bank, was very short and all blotted up. It read: 'Metropolitan Bank, No. 35 Wall street; Send by mail \$50, and oblige L. H. Yeargan.' The letter bore the date of August 14th, and was mailed at Asbury Park.

POLICEMEN'S BAD ERROR.
Not in Uniform, They Arrest Men Who, Thinking Themselves Beaten by Rousts, Resist Them.

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Policemen Conway and Schroeder, of the West Seventy-seventh Street Station, on Sunday afternoon pursued a boy, who had been playing ball on Fifty-third street. He darted into the hallway of No. 520. The sidewalk was crowded and a group gathered in an instant around the doorway.

Through the group the policemen dashed, roughly throwing persons aside and, according to eye-witnesses, knocking two boys from bicycles and ramming a baby carriage and baby into the gutter.

The policemen were not in uniform; neither did they display badges or say they were policemen. The bystanders took them for members of a rough gang.

Braun, who lives on the first floor, tried to keep them out, for his wife lay dying there, but they nonchalantly upon him, lowered him, and then they entered the room, in view of his wife, who went into violent paroxysms, subdued him. The other two men, who had also opposed him under the belief that they were lawless rousts, were then arrested.

Magistrate Kudlich discharged the three men and sharply reprimanded the policemen.

AMATEUR ATHLETES ARE EXONERATED.

Charges Against Liebgold, Bean and Buck Dismissed by the Board.

Important Session by the Local Association of the A. A. U. Last Night.

W. B. CURTIS'S ACTIONS CRITICISED

As One of the Founders of the Present Constitution His Protests Are Looked Upon with Much Surprise.

Considerable interest was taken by a local athletes in the outcome of the Board meeting of the Metropolitan Association of the A. A. U., held at the Astor House last night. The crowded conditions of the corridors reminded one of the old days when amateur athletics was in its prime.

After a prolonged session the delegates sent word to the representatives of the press, who had been patiently awaiting the result of their deliberations, that the case of D. Reuss, who competed in the Metropolitan championships August 1, and was protested by the Williamsburg A. C., was decided at a later date, while C. H. Bean, who competed for the New Jersey A. C., at the same meeting, was exonerated by the chairman of his own Games Committee, owing to assertions that he was not qualified to represent a club in the district, his home being in New Hampshire.

The evidence showed that while there would have been some grounds for the charge if made a year ago, there are none now, as Bean earns his livelihood and resides in Bayonne, N. J.

Jerome Buck, of the Knickerbocker Club, was protested, on technical grounds, viz., that he had competed in the recent diocesan games in Jersey City as a member of one of the clubs on the roll of that organization, while in open competition he was representing the Knickerbocker Club. The Board acquitted him, but told him "not to do it again."

The same result was reached, too, in the case of Sam Liebgold, the champion walker, who had been brought to book by no less a person than Mr. W. B. Curtis, who is looked upon as the father of the A. A. U. A strange phase of the case is that Mr. Curtis, who was one of the framers of the present set of laws governing the union, should at this late date, after having been so closely allied to the A. A. U. for the past eight years, make the objection, some of the enthusiasts of amateur athletics going so far as to assert that Mr. Curtis,

was an old friend of her family.

Mr. John Spencer, head of the optical firm, said yesterday: "Miss Oswald was always looked upon here as a smart and capable woman. She had great mercantile knowledge, which, I believe, she had first acquired in a big department store in Brooklyn. For eighteen months she was a most efficient clerk with us, and then she became uncertain in her attendance. It was noticed that she became peculiar, also, and she did not appear at times to be quite sane. During last September she quit our employ without a word of explanation, a day's notice, and we never heard from her afterward. About a month later I read of her getting into trouble for threatening to shoot a Brooklyn woman."

"Medical Examiner King, of New Haven, did all in his power to find her friends without avail. All we know is that she has three maiden sisters living somewhere in Brooklyn."

Threatened to Shoot Mrs. Wright.
Miss Emma Oswald was arrested at No. 128 Manhattan avenue on October 29 last for threatening the life of Mrs. Sarah W. Wright, a young widow, who lives with Mrs. Blackburn, the wife of a merchant, at No. 170 Jay street, Brooklyn.

Mrs. Blackburn said last night: "I first became acquainted with Miss Oswald, or 'Ossie,' as everybody called her, about two years ago. At that time she was working for the Spencer Company, and lived at No. 102 Sands street, which is just around the corner from our house. She was a talkative, chatty body for a time, and then she began to want to run the whole house, and was constantly quarreling with us all. I saw that she was becoming insane and became really afraid of her."

"I finally was obliged to put her out of the house. The next day I was alone when she forced her way in, and drawing a pistol said she was going to shoot me. I saw I had a mad woman to deal with and I called the police. They came and disarmed her. The next day she

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The Hamilton case, which was the last one on the schedule was referred to a committee of three and the meeting adjourned, the delegates leaving the room with broad smiles on their faces.

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MYSTERIOUS SUICIDE WAS EMMA OSWALD.

Her Identity Finally Established by a Man Who Said He Was a Relative.

Believed to Have Been Suffering for Some Time from Hereditary Insanity.

BODY BROUGHT TO NEW YORK.

Man Who Was Said to Be Thomas S. Hunter Brings It Here, and Then It Is Smuggled Away, No One Knows Where.

The woman who committed suicide aboard the steamer C. H. Northam on the way from this city to New Haven, Conn., on Friday night was Miss Emma Oswald, of Brooklyn. She was an eccentric character, well known in the vicinity of Sands and Jay streets.

Although the utmost efforts have been made to shroud the case in mystery, sufficient is known of the unfortunate woman's career to warrant the assertion that that resort to which she has not been a responsible person, that she was a victim of hereditary insanity, probably accelerated and accentuated by drink.

As told in yesterday's Journal, numerous effects were found upon the dead woman and in her satchel which threw light upon her identity. But for the reticence of Medical Examiner Moses C. White, of New Haven, the body might have been in the possession of friends two days ago. After ineffectual attempts to fix her identity himself, he made public the words written on the back of the woman's photograph of herself found in her satchel.

Message on the Photograph.
Sally—As you and your mother, so I am in it. If you had said but a word in time all would have been well. May prosperity attend you.

Emma Oswald was born in Brooklyn about forty years ago. Her mother died while she was yet a child, and her father, John Oswald, a prosperous merchant, died in a private asylum for the insane about six years ago. According to the woman's own statement to friends her grandfather and an uncle also died insane.

Nearly three years ago Emma Oswald was employed by the Spencer Optical Company, at No. 15 Maiden lane, on the recommendation of Mr. James White, foreman of the factory of Aiken, Lambert & Co., makers of fountain pens, at No. 19 Maiden lane. It was understood that Mr. White was an old friend of her family.

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threatened to kill my niece and was arrested." A man who first gave the name of Quinn, arrived in New Haven yesterday, and fully identified the body as that of Emma Oswald, of Brooklyn. He finally gave his full address to the authorities and was permitted to remove the body, which arrived in this city at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and was smuggled away, no one knows where. Medical Examiner White said that the man was Thomas G. Hunter, of Brooklyn, a relative of the dead woman. It is known, however, that James White was not at his post at Aiken, Lambert & Co.'s factory yesterday. It was said he was on sick leave.

AT THEATRES LAST NIGHT.

Audiences Enthusiastic Over "Under the Polar Star" at the Academy. Other Attractions.

"Under the Polar Star" has caught on at the Academy of Music. Large audiences were enthusiastic over its sensational incidents and novel scenic and mechanical effects. No native play has heretofore had an Arctic expedition as a lever; no drama has had its scenario confined to the unknown belt that attracted Peary, Nansen, Greely and the others, and no manager in recent years has given the native stage an object so thrilling as that of the expedition. The expedition to the Pole, the perils of one lover and the exonerations of another, accompanied by the hazards of Arctic research comprises the story, which may be said to fully meet the demand of his hero in continuously mortal action until his final vindication.

Koster & Blum's Music Hall is doing a phenomenal business. After 8 o'clock it is almost impossible to get standing room. The entertainment furnished at that resort is one of the best ever seen in this city. The Flying Jordans, one of the most daring families of acrobats, the Jungs in a local theatre, have proved a big drawing card.

Tony Pastor presented an excellent bill. Polite Holmes, the "Irish Duchess," was the main feature, and other attractions were Lizzie Ramsden, the Nelson Trio, Gould and Runt, Jessie Seagr, Clark and St. Clair, Val Vino, the juggler; Kitty Morgan, the Keegans and the Jugs.

One of the strongest bills of the season was presented on the Grand Central Palace roof. The Webelos troupe headed it, and they proved capital entertainers. They appeared a sketch called "Love and Intrigue," in which they introduced some pleasing and novel electrical effects. H. L. Stevenson's grotesque burlesque exhibition made a decided hit, and the gold and silver ballet was well received. Other interesting specialties were introduced.

Large audiences and capital entertainments at Proctor's Pleasure Palace testify to the managerial tact and skill, and the public